

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: SOUTH CENTRAL **County:** CALAVERAS

Applicant: CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Project Title: REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RECONNAISSANCE STUDY IN THE HIGHWAY 4 CORRIDOR

Reference Number: SNC 070116

PROJECT SCOPE

This study proposes Phase I of a collaborative project to investigate strategic opportunities to correct water and wastewater facility deficiencies along the Highway 4 corridor in the Stanislaus River Watershed located in Calaveras County. The primary goal of this project is to seek cross jurisdictional partnerships so that infrastructure improvements, replacement needs, and facility expansions and upgrades can be coordinated in a manner that acknowledges and respects connections between water, wastewater, land use, and development within the region. This project will receive matching funds and in-kind services from the Calaveras County Water District in the amount of \$36,000.

Tasks included to achieve this goal include:

- Collecting and reviewing existing data resulting in an annotated outline and a detailed base map developed with Geographic Information System (GIS) software;
- Identifying issues and opportunities through regional agency meetings, stakeholder outreach meetings, and meetings with regional programs;
- Preparing an issues and opportunities report and conducting a public presentation;
- Outlining alternatives of options to regionalize the individual facilities to meet an efficient economy of scale.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Collecting and reviewing existing data- creating an annotated outline & base map <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Technical Memo Summarizing Multi-Agency Data, GIS Map Showing Facilities, Communities, and Environment</i>	April – September 2008
Identifying issues and opportunities, developing alternatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Technical Memo Summarizing Issues and Opportunities And Alternatives, Meeting Outcomes, and Sign-In List</i>	August 2008-April 2009
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Complete and submit 12 month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Preparing an issues and opportunities report and conducting a public presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Develop Final Planning Report</i> <i>Conduct Public Presentation of Phase I Findings</i>	February – August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	October 29, 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Consultant contract to review existing data, develop GIS map, identify issues and opportunities, develop alternatives and conduct public presentations	\$32,610
GRAND TOTAL	\$32,610

Letters of Support:

- Angels Camp
- Murphys Sanitary District
- Union Public Utility District
- Local Government Commission

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the reduced amount of \$32,610. The funding request was originally submitted for \$90,000. Staff worked with the applicant to identify an adequate amount of funds to initiate the project, while allowing the grantee more time to secure the funds needed to complete the project.

2. Project Summary: HIGHWAY 4 CORRIDOR REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RECONNAISSANCE STUDY

Introduction: The Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) proposes a collaborative project to investigate strategic opportunities to correct water and wastewater utility deficiencies along the Highway 4 corridor in the Stanislaus River Watershed in Calaveras County (See attached map). The regional approach to utility solution solving will increase coordination and collaboration between utilities and land use agencies and lead to a regional, watershed-based approach to long-standing planning, resource management, and capital facility improvement programs.

Problem: Currently, wide-ranging financial and institutional obstacles collide with the unique demographic and geographic dynamics of the Sierra Nevada. This unplanned meeting of issues creates barriers for constructing necessary upgrades to water and wastewater facilities, which often means capital facility replacement programs and state and federal regulatory mandates go un-met. Poor economy of scale (i.e., insufficient number of ratepayers to spread the huge, fixed and variable costs of capital facilities), and often under-staffed or ill-equipped staff and expertise, sets in perpetual motion this system of inefficiency for the Sierra Nevada Utility.

Solution: Utility regionalization and improved coordination are needed to support sustainable practices in the Sierra Nevada. This requires looking beyond traditional jurisdictional boundaries to create partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies so that infrastructure improvements, replacement needs, and growth decisions can be coordinated in a manner that respects connections between water, wastewater, land use, and development within a watershed or region.

Through an inclusive, team-based approach, various goals and priorities can be examined. Cost-effective, big picture, regional alternatives must be made available to compete with the narrowly defined traditional treatment technology. A financial base could emerge through regional collaboration to make necessary improvements to upgrade facilities, build infrastructure necessary for reuse and recycling, and coordinate efforts to improve public education, water conservation, wetland restoration biological treatment demonstration projects.

This proposed project will partner CCWD, Calaveras County, the City of Angels, Murphys Sanitary District, Union Public Utility District, and the Utica Power Authority. A ‘living’ model will be developed to examine strategies for regionalizing water and wastewater facilities. A technical team consisting of project partners will develop preliminary concept plans based on goals, objectives, and priorities. Information will be shared with stakeholders, the public, and non-governmental organizations. The model will then be refined to evaluate what is working to ensure a sustainable, cost-effective concept plan emerges for regional implementation. The result will be a regional planning model that integrates multi-party water/wastewater solutions.

Total Project Cost: Total *HIGHWAY 4 CORRIDOR REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RECONNAISSANCE STUDY* project cost is \$130,000. CCWD, and its partners, will provide \$40,000 in project funding made up of a local cost share match of \$25,000 in cash and \$15,000 through in-kind services. The total grant request for the proposed project from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is \$90,000.